

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 31-37, 39-41 and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn et al. (US Patent 5916302) further in view of Berkley et al. (US Patent 6546005 B1).

3. In regards to claims 31 and 34, Dunn et al. (US Patent 5916302) disclose in figure 6, a process 36 for establishing a voice connection through a PSTN (receiving a telephone call from a calling party at a telephony network). At step 37, the participants converse over a PSTN connection (establishing a voice channel configured to facilitate voice communication between a called party and a calling party over a telephony network in response to receiving a telephone call from the calling party at the telephony network; wherein a voice communication between the called party and the calling party is carried over the voice channel of the telephony network). At step 41 in figure 6a, image data flows from originating conferee to conference server to other conferees and is separate from voice (establishment of a data channel to facilitate a data communication between the called party and the calling party; and the data

communication between the called party and the calling party is carried over the separate virtual data channel of the packet data network).

4. In further regards to claims 31 and 34, although Dunn teaches an establishment of the virtual data channel as between the called party and the calling party, Dunn fails to teach the data channel being automatically established in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephony network. Dunn in fact teaches establishing parallel voice and data connections over physically or logically separate lines extending to the PSTN and data network (see column 9, lines 51-54), where the establishment of the parallel data connection is done upon the request of a user (i.e. a manual establishment) (see column 2, lines 63-67 and column 3, lines 1-3).

5. In *In re Venner*, the court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art. *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958).

6. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to establish the data channel automatically instead of manually.

7. In further regards to claims 31 and 34, Dunn fails to teach determining a configuration of customer premise equipment for the calling party and customer premise equipment for the called party, the determination being initiated by a network node in response to a telephone call and the establishing of a separate parallel virtual data

channel if the configurations are compatible and accessing a database to determine the broadband access capabilities.

8. Berkley however, teaches the above-mentioned limitations in the active user registry disclosed in figure 2 which is queried anytime a user need to communicate through a packet or a voice network. The database is inclusive of multimedia capabilities 280, LAN and modem IP addresses 260 and URL addresses 270. Furthermore, the calling party is contacted first with a preferred method designated by the party (see column 9, lines 37-46).

9. Berkeley further teaches as an example in figure 3c that for example, if a subscriber at step 321 initiates a contact using multimedia PC 160. The subscriber at step 323 requests the AUR system to provide a URL for visiting the user's home page and then leaving an email message for the user. The AUR system at step 324 compares the subscriber's request (URL and email message) against the user's preference (e-mail, voice mail or fax) (determining the configuration of the CPE for the called party and calling party, the determination being initiated by a network node in response to a telephone call). The AUR system selects email since this is common to both user and subscriber (thus, the called party has a compatible configuration to the calling party and thus the data channel can be established since if a email can be sent, a data channel must be established) (see column 11, lines 18-54 and figure 3c).

10. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the active user registry taught by Berkley into the

conference server taught by Dunn. The motivation to do so would be to ascertain the network address to place a conference call.

11. In regards to claim 32, step 43 in figure 6a of Dunn shows that the data signals represent displayable images, visual cues to be displayed and service request changes.

12. In regards to claim 33, at step 41 in figure 6a of Dunn, image data flows from originating conferee to conference server to other conferees and is separate from voice.

13. In regards to claim 35, at steps 40 and 41 in Dunn, voice signals and data images flow between all conferees.

14. In regards to claim 36, Dunn et al. (US Patent 5916302) disclose in figure 6, a process 36 for establishing a voice connection through a PSTN (receiving a telephone call from a calling party at a telephony network). At step 37, the participants converse over a PSTN connection (establishing a voice channel over the telephony network wherein the voice channel is configured to facilitate a voice communication between a called party and the calling party). At step 41 in figure 6a, image data flows from originating conferee to conference server to other conferees and is separate from voice (establishment of a virtual data channel to facilitate a data communication between the called party and the calling party on a packet data network in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephone network, after the voice conversation begins over the voice channel). If further regards, step 41 in figure 6a states that the image data remains separate from voice throughout their handling to and from the server (wherein the voice channel and the virtual data channel operate in parallel to provide a

synchronized voice and data transmission between the calling party and the called party)

15. In further regards to claim 36, although Dunn teaches an establishment of the virtual data channel as between the called party and the calling party, Dunn fails to teach the data channel being automatically established in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephony network. Dunn in fact teaches establishing parallel voice and data connections over physically or logically separate lines extending to the PSTN and data network (see column 9, lines 51-54), where the establishment of the parallel data connection is done upon the request of a user (i.e. a manual establishment) (see column 2, lines 63-67 and column 3, lines 1-3).

16. In *In re Venner*, the court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art. *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958).

17. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to establish the data channel automatically instead of manually.

18. In further regards to claim 36, Dunn fails to teach determining a configuration of customer premise equipment for the calling party and customer premise equipment for the called party, wherein the determination of whether the configurations are compatible is initiated by a network node in response to a telephone call and the establishing of a separate parallel virtual data channel if the configurations are compatible.

19. Berkley however, teaches the above-mentioned limitations in the active user registry disclosed in figure 2 which is queried anytime a user need to communicate through a packet or a voice network. The database is inclusive of multimedia capabilities 280, LAN and modem IP addresses 260 and URL addresses 270. Furthermore, the calling party is contacted first with a preferred method designated by the party (see column 9, lines 37-46).

20. Berkeley further teaches as an example in figure 3c that for example, if a subscriber at step 321 initiates a contact using multimedia PC 160. The subscriber at step 323 requests the AUR system to provide a URL for visiting the user's home page and then leaving an email message for the user. The AUR system at step 324 compares the subscriber's request (URL and email message) against the user's preference (e-mail, voice mail or fax) (determining the configuration of the CPE for the called party and calling party being compatible being initiated by a network node in response to the telephone call). The AUR system selects email since this is common to both user and subscriber (thus, the called party has a compatible configuration to the calling party and thus the data channel can be established since if a email can be sent, a data channel must be established) (see column 11, lines 18-54 and figure 3c). The AUR system 170 reads on the network node.

21. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the active user registry taught by Berkley into the conference server taught by Dunn. The motivation to do so would be to ascertain the network address to place a conference call.

22. In regards to claim 37, step 43 in figure 6a of Dunn shows that the data signals represent displayable images, visual cues to be displayed and service request changes.

23. In regards to claim 39, at steps 40 and 41 in Dunn, voice signals and data images flow between all conferees.

24. In regards to claim 40, Dunn et al. disclose in figure 6, a process 36 for establishing a voice connection through a PSTN (receiving a telephone call from a calling party at a telephony network).

25. In further regards to claim 40, at step 37, the participants converse over a PSTN connection (establishing, over a telephony network via a subscriber loop in communication with the telephony network, a voice channel configured to facilitate a voice communication from a calling party to a called party, in response to receiving a telephone call from the calling part over the subscriber loop wherein the voice channel carries the voice communication over the subscriber loop). At step 41 in figure 6a, image data flows from originating conferee to conference server to other conferees and is separate from voice (automatic establishment of a data channel between the called party and the virtual data channel carries the data communication concurrently over the subscriber loop; where the data channel carries the data communication over the subscriber loop).

26. In further regards to claim 40, although Dunn teaches an establishment of the virtual data channel as between the called party and the calling party, Dunn fails to teach the data channel being automatically established in response to receiving the telephone call at the telephony network. Dunn in fact teaches establishing parallel voice

and data connections over physically or logically separate lines extending to the PSTN and data network (see column 9, lines 51-54), where the establishment of the parallel data connection is done upon the request of a user (i.e. a manual establishment) (see column 2, lines 63-67 and column 3, lines 1-3).

27. In *In re Venner*, the court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art. *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958).

28. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to establish the data channel automatically instead of manually.

29. In further regards to claim 40, Dunn fails to teach, determining a data address for the calling party on a data network and a data address for a called party on the data network. Berkley et al. however, teach the above-mentioned limitation where a database is queried in the user registry to ascertain the identification information (see figure 2, element 260).

30. In further regards to claim 40, Dunn also fails to teach determining whether a configuration of the customer premise equipment for the calling party is compatible with a configuration of customer premise equipment for the called party, the determining being initiated by a network node in response to the telephone call and the automatic establishing of a separate parallel virtual data channel including the determining the

configurations of the CPE for the calling and called parties involved and establishing the virtual data channel if the configurations are compatible.

31. Berkley however, teaches the above-mentioned limitations in the active user registry disclosed in figure 2 which is queried anytime a user need to communicate through a packet or a voice network. The database is inclusive of multimedia capabilities 280, LAN and modem IP addresses 260 and URL addresses 270. Furthermore, the calling party is contacted first with a preferred method designated by the party (see column 9, lines 37-46).

32. Berkeley further teaches as an example in figure 3c that for example, if a subscriber at step 321 initiates a contact using multimedia PC 160. The subscriber at step 323 requests the AUR system to provide a URL for visiting the user's home page and then leaving an email message for the user. The AUR system at step 324 compares the subscriber's request (URL and email message) against the user's preference (e-mail, voice mail or fax) (determining if the configuration of the CPE for the called party and calling party are compatible, the determining being initiated by a network node in response to the telephone call). The AUR system selects email since this is common to both user and subscriber (thus, the called party has a compatible configuration to the calling party and thus the data channel can be established since if a email can be sent, a data channel must be established) (see column 11, lines 18-54 and figure 3c). The AUR system 170 reads on the network node.

33. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the active user registry taught by Berkley into the

conference server taught by Dunn. The motivation to do so would be to ascertain the network address to place a conference call.

34. In regards to claim 43, Dunn teaches in figure 6a, at steps 40 and 41, voice signals and data images flow between all conferees.

35. In regards to claims 41 and 44, Dunn in combination with Berkley teaches all the limitations of parent claims 40 and 43. Dunn further teaches in figure 6a, at steps 40 and 41, voice signals and data images flow between all conferees (concurrently sharing information over the voice and data channels). However, Dunn fails to teach ascertaining a data address that is an IP address and transmitting the data address of the party to all the attendees. Berkley teaches the above-mentioned limitation where a database is queried in the user registry to ascertain the identification information (see figure 2, element 260) and using the appropriate contact information initiation communications (see figure 3a and 3b, steps 306 and 316).

36. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the active user registry taught by Berkley into the conference server taught by Dunn. The motivation to do so would be to ascertain the network address to place a conference call.

37. In regards to claims 45-46, Dunn and Berkeley in combination teach all the limitations of parent claim 31. Dunn however fails to teach, the determining initiated by the network node in response to the telephone call comprises the network node querying a database in response to a network trigger generated in response to the telephone call and the network node comprising a service controller.

38. Berkeley however teaches in figures 3a, 3b and 3c, a subscriber initiating a contact to the AUR system using a PC (the determining initiated by the network node in response to the telephone call comprises the network node querying a database in response to a network trigger generated in response to the telephone call) (see figures 3a, 3b and 3c). Furthermore, the subscriber attempting to contact the user at work prefers to leave a fax message for the user (see column 10, lines 16-19). The ability for the subscriber to prefer a type of message, reads on the network node being a service controller.

39. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the active user registry taught by Berkley into the conference server taught by Dunn. The motivation to do so would be to ascertain the network address to place a conference call.

40. Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn et al. (US Patent 5916302) in view of Berkley et al. (US Patent 6546005 B1) further in view of Fukuoka et al. (US Patent 5914940).

41. In regards to claim 38, Dunn in combination with Berkley teaches or is obvious over all the limitations of parent claim 36 as stated above. Dunn teaches at step 40 in figure 6a, voice signals flowing between conferees over the voice channel.

42. Dunn and Berkley however fails to teach, sending video signals over the virtual data network. Fukuoka however, teaches the above-mentioned limitation in figure 5 step S8 where a composite video packet is sent over a packetized network.

43. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the transmission of a video packet as taught by Fukuoka in the data network taught by Dunn and Berkley. The motivation to do so would be allow a network user to send video signal in order to enhance the conferencing between all the parties involved.

44. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn et al. (US Patent 5916302) in view of Berkley et al. (US Patent 6546005 B1) and further in view of DeSimone et al. (US Patent 6138144).

45. In regards to claim 42, Dunn in combination with Berkley teaches all the limitations of parent claims 40 and 41. Neither Dunn nor Berkley teaches the virtual data channel using an ATM protocol.

46. DeSimone however, teaches the above-mentioned limitation in figure 1 where a user 101-1 establishes a connection with multicast server 130 using the ATM protocol (see column 7, lines 1-2).

47. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use of the ATM protocol as taught by DiSimone to set up the virtual data channel as taught by Dunn, the active user registry taught by Berkley. The motivation to do so would be to allow the option of assigning the variable bit rate services that ATM allows.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 9/9/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that the present application does not require additional efforts on the part of the calling party such as accessing websites, requesting URL addresses, leaving e-mails, etc. and that as recited in claim 31 the determining is "initiated by a network node in response to the telephone call. As the examiner has stated above, the AUR system at step 324 compares the subscriber's request (URL and email message) against the user's preference (e-mail, voice mail or fax) (determining the configuration of the CPE for the called party and calling party, the determination being initiated by a network node in response to a telephone call). The AUR system selects email since this is common to both user and subscriber (see column 11, lines 18-54 and figure 3c). The AUR system 170 reads on a network node. Clearly the AUR system is different entity than the subscriber.

The applicant further argues that the examiner has failed to consider the presently claimed limitation of automatically establishing a separate, parallel virtual data channel to facilitate a data communication between, the called party and the calling party over a packet data network in response to the telephone call at the telephone network, when the configuration of the CPEs of the respective parties are compatible.

48. However, the examiner has stated above, Dunn fails to teach determining a configuration of customer premise equipment for the calling party and customer premise equipment for the called party, the determination being initiated by a network node in response to a telephone call and the establishing of a separate parallel virtual data channel if the configurations are compatible and accessing a database to determine the broadband access capabilities.

49. Berkley however, teaches the above-mentioned limitations in the active user registry disclosed in figure 2 which is queried anytime a user need to communicate through a packet or a voice network. The database is inclusive of multimedia capabilities 280, LAN and modem IP addresses 260 and URL addresses 270. Furthermore, the calling party is contacted first with a preferred method designated by the party (see column 9, lines 37-46).

50. Berkeley further teaches as an example in figure 3c that for example, if a subscriber at step 321 initiates a contact using multimedia PC 160. The subscriber at step 323 requests the AUR system to provide a URL for visiting the user's home page and then leaving an email message for the user. The AUR system at step 324 compares the subscriber's request (URL and email message) against the user's preference (e-mail, voice mail or fax). The AUR system selects email since this is common to both user and subscriber (thus, the called party has a compatible configuration to the calling party and thus the data channel can be established since if a email can be sent, a data channel must be established) (see column 11, lines 18-54 and figure 3c).

51. *In re Venner* was relied upon to teach that providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAY P. PATEL whose telephone number is (571)272-3086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs.: 8:00 a.m.- 6:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Ryman can be reached on (571)272-3152. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. P. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2466

/Melanie Jagannathan/
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